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Number of political prisoners convicted up to 31st October 1930.

* 58 *Q.*—Mr. A. HARISCHANDRUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners (men and women) convicted for offences other than acts of violence to life or property in the Madras Presidency up to 31st October 1930;

(*b*) the number of political prisoners sentenced for acts of violence in Madras Presidency up to 31st October 1930;

(*c*) the number of political prisoners that apologised and were set free in the Madras Presidency up to 31st October 1930;

(*d*) whether the Government have received complaints or representations that political prisoners are not properly treated in jails particularly in the matter of diet; and

(*e*) if so, what steps have the Government taken to remedy this evil?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government have no information.

(*c*) Two hundred and ninety from jails and borstal schools.

(*d*) & (*e*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clauses (*e*) and (*f*) of question No. 57.

Mr. A. HARISCHANDRUDU:—"With regard to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) of the question, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to call for the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I shall consider the suggestion."

Diet to 'C' class prisoners in Jails.

* 59 *Q.*—Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of political prisoners of the 'C' class in the Presidency who are or were suffering from dysentery, the average duration of their suffering; and

(*b*) whether any of the political prisoners singly or jointly made any representations to the authorities concerned regarding the supply of butter-milk; if the answer is in the affirmative, what are the said representations and by whom they were made and what action has been taken on the same?

A.—(*a*) The Government have no information.

(*b*) Yes. As an experimental measure, 'C' class prisoners in the Alipuram Jail are supplied with butter-milk in lieu of a portion of the dholl allowed to them. The question of extending this concession to 'C' class prisoners in other jails is under examination.

Mr. U. C. SUBRAHMANYA BHATT:—"May I know what the answer is to the first part of clause (*b*) of the question, as to whether any representations were made to the Government and if so by whom?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"Yes. Representations have been made by some prisoners in the Rajahmundry jail and by some prisoners in the Alipuram jail."

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Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed :—"May I know whether Government will put an end to this experimenting on prisoners and allow butter-milk to all the prisoners who want it?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"No, Sir; not till the result of the experiment is known."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan :—"May I know, Sir, whether the hon. the Law Member will call for information in answer to clause (*a*) of the question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Yes, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar :—"May I know, Sir, why the Central Jail at Bellary which is so close to Alipuram Jail has not been included in the experiment?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"For the very reason that the experiment is carried on only in one jail and not in all the jails. The Government make no distinction between the Central Jail in Bellary and the Central Jails in other parts of the Presidency."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar :—"May I know, Sir, why, with regard to almost all questions asked to-day, the Government say they have no information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The Government give information on points they have information."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"With regard to the Central Jail in Bellary, is it a fact that the majority of the prisoners were against any reduction in the quantity of dholl?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Notice, Sir."

Diwan Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabhapati Mudaliyar :—"May I know the reason for selecting the Alipuram jail for the experiment?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Because the prisoners there were insistent in being supplied with butter-milk."

Mr. C. Satyanarayana Choudari :—"With reference to the answer given to clause (*b*) of the question, may I know how long this experiment with butter-milk, referred to therein, has been going on?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Roughly as far as I can say, for about two months. If my hon. Friend wants an accurate answer, I must ask for notice."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"May I know whether the information asked for in clause (*a*) will be got?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"Yes, Sir."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"Are the Government aware that many prisoners in jails are suffering from dysentery for want of butter-milk?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"The Government are not aware, Sir."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi :—"Are the Government aware that one Mr. Gupta died of dysentery in the Trichinopoly Jail?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar :—"I shall make enquiries."

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Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar:—"May I know how the information about the number of political prisoners in this province is not already with the Government, considering that the Government of India recently gave out the information?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"As a matter of fact, the difficulty is that some of these men are coming into the prisons and others are being released."

Diwan Bahadur M. Gopalaswami Mudaliyar:—"Is the hon. the Law Member aware that one political prisoner suffering from dysentery is now being treated in the main hospital in Bellary?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I am not aware."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"In answer to a supplementary question, the hon. Member said that the Government had no information with regard to the death of a prisoner in the Trichinopoly Jail. May I know whether the Government is so irresponsible with regard to the lives of people who are in jail?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"The Government is fully responsible, Sir, for the lives of the people in jails."

Mr. T. S. Ramaswami Ayyar:—"When courts of law take judicial recognition of certain public opinions, is it not possible for Government to take judicial note of the general medical opinion in favour of giving butter-milk to people suffering from dysentery?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"I do not know how the question of butter-milk comes into this question."

The number of political prisoners who have suffered from dysentery since April 1930.

*60 Q.—Mr. K. Koti Reddi: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state the number of political prisoners in the various jails of the Presidency who have suffered and are suffering from dysentery since April 1930?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (a) of Question No. 59.

Rules for the appointment of visitors to jails.

*61 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is a rule now that persons wearing khaddar or Gandhi caps may not be appointed as visitors to jails, and if so, the reasons for it; and

(b) whether the relatives and friends of prisoners are not allowed to visit them in the jails, if they wear khadi or 'Gandhi' caps, and if so, the reasons for it?

A.—(a) The answer to the first part of the question is in the negative. The second part does not arise.

(b) The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative. The second part of the question does not arise.